Descriptive Data Element Name: Principal Diagnosis

XSD Data Type: xs: string

Attribute Name: princ_diag

Accepts Null values: No

Required in XSD: Yes

Minimum Constraint: 3

Maximum Constraint: 7

Definition: The ICD-10-CM code describing the condition or problem that is the reason for the encounter as shown in the provider records to be chiefly responsible for the outpatient services performed during this visit.

Comments: To code the principal diagnosis:

- Use an ICD-10-CM code without a decimal point.
- Enter all three to seven digits codes to the highest level of specificity.

Edit: A principal diagnosis must be:

- Present
- Valid
- Consistent with sex and age
- An external cause code should not be entered as the principal diagnosis.

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